IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1.   (Currently Amended) A transaction assisting apparatus for assisting transactions in goods, comprising:

a chain order input unit permitting input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of sale or purchase of first movable goods by customer A, purchase or sale of second movable goods different from the first movable goods by customer B;

an order detecting unit detecting an order for purchase or sale of the first movable goods with respect to which the chain order is placed; and

a chain order processing unit responsive to the detection of a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined chain order by said order detecting unit, for performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first movable goods by said customer A and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second movable goods by said customer B<u>;</u>

<u>further comprising price changing means for, responsive to a change in price of the second movable goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding first movable goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner</u>.

2.   (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

chain order storing means for storing the chain order input from said chain order input unit; and

deleting means for deleting, from said chain order storing means, the chain order with respect to which the sale or purchase has been completed by said chain order processing unit.

3.   (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means for selectively displaying those of the chain orders which include a sell or buy order for the second movable goods and which satisfy a condition for sale or purchase of the second movable goods.

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4.   (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said display means inhibits display of information about a buy or sell order for the second movable goods included in the chain order when the chain order is placed, and displays the information after the chain order is executed.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said chain order processing unit performs chain order processing in series if an order placed with respect to the second movable goods to be transacted is a chain order.

7.   (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising tax amount calculating means for calculating an amount of tax to be paid as a result of the execution of the chain order; and

notifying means for notifying parties concerned in the execution of the chain order of the amount of tax calculated by said tax amount calculating means.

8.   (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transfer means for automatically transferring a price and a tax payable as a result of the execution from one to another of accounts of parties concerned in the execution.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program to be executed by a computer for causing the computer to perform a transaction assisting process for assisting transactions in goods,

wherein the program causes the computer to function as:

permitting input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of sale or purchase of first movable goods by customer A, purchase or sale of second movable goods different from the first movable goods by customer B;

detecting an order for purchase or sale of the first movable goods with respect to which the chain order is placed; and

responding to the detection of a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined chain order by performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first movable goods by

said customer A and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second movable goods by said customer B;

further comprising, responsive to a change in price of the second movable goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding first movable goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for assisting transactions in goods, the method comprising:

permitting input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of sale or purchase of first movable goods by customer A, purchase or sale of second movable goods different from the first movable goods by customer B;

detecting, an order for purchase or sale of the first movable goods with respect to which the chain order is placed; and

responding to the detection of a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined chain order by performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first movable goods by said customer A and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second movable goods by said customer B;

further comprising, responsive to a change in price of the second movable goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding first movable goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
storing the inputted chain order; and

deleting the stored chain order with respect to which the sale or purchase has been completed.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising displaying those of the chain orders which include a sell or buy order for the second movable goods and which satisfy a condition for sale or purchase of the second movable goods.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising inhibiting display of information about a buy or sell order for the second movable goods included in the chain order when the chain order is placed, and displaying the information after the chain order is executed.

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14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising, responsive to a change in price of the first movable goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding second movable goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising performing chain order processing in series if an order placed with respect to the second movable goods to be transacted is a chain order.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising calculating an amount of tax to be paid as a result of the execution of the chain order; and
notifying parties concerned in the execution of the chain order of the amount of tax calculated.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising automatically transferring a price and a tax payable as a result of the execution from one to another of accounts of parties concerned in the execution.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for assisting transactions in goods, comprising:
a chain order input unit permitting input of orders to sell first movable goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale of the first movable goods by customer A, purchase of second movable goods by customer B from a third party, the second movable goods being different from the first movable goods;
an order detecting unit automatically detecting said sale of the first movable goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed by said customer A; and
a chain order processor, responsive to the detection of said sell order for the first movable goods by said order detecting unit, automatically executing the chain order by purchasing the second movable goods by said customer B;
further comprising a price changer for, responsive to a change in price of the second movable goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding first movable goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

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19 and 20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently Amended) A transaction assisting apparatus for assisting transactions in goods, comprising:

means for permitting input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of sale or purchase of first movable goods by customer A, purchase or sale of second movable goods different from the first movable goods by customer B;

means for detecting an order for purchase or sale of the first movable goods with respect to which the chain order is placed; and

means for responding to the detection of a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined chain order by performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first movable goods by said customer A and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second movable goods by said customer B;

further comprising price changing means for, responsive to a change in price of the second movable goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding first movable goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.